

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2012

The Honorable Peter Ammon
Ambassador
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
2300 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Ambassador Ammon,

We are writing to express our deep concern over the June 26, 2012 decision by the District Court of Cologne that rejected circumcision practices on minor males by the consent of their parents. The Cologne decision is an affront to religious freedom and would undermine public health.

Outlawing circumcision by parental consent creates a serious conflict for the Jewish and Muslim communities of the Cologne Government District, who practice circumcision as a fundamental rite of passage and affirmation of faith. The decision also defies proven scientific evidence that male circumcision can offer lifelong health benefits.

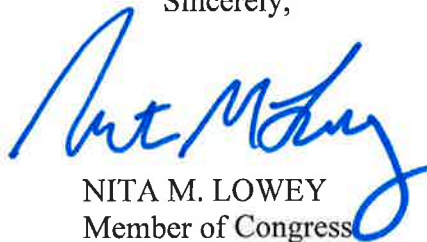
We applaud the strong opposition voiced by Chancellor Angela Merkel and Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, who have expressed their disapproval and dismay at the court's ruling. We also welcome the initiative by the German Bundestag to pass legislation to safeguard religious freedom, parental rights and the rights of doctors who perform the procedure.

We urge the German government to act swiftly to achieve a lasting resolution to the misinformation and uncertainty that has stemmed from the controversy and we look forward to working with you in this regard.

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress



NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress

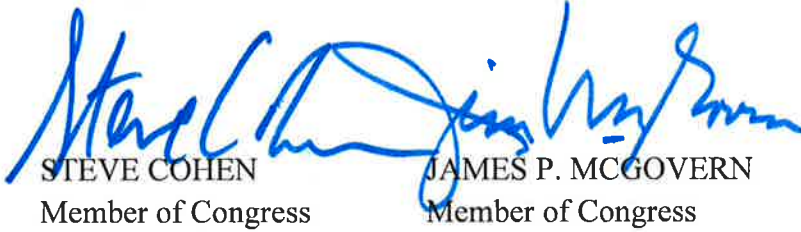


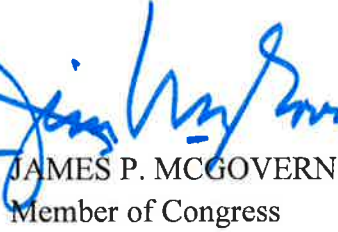
HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress


ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

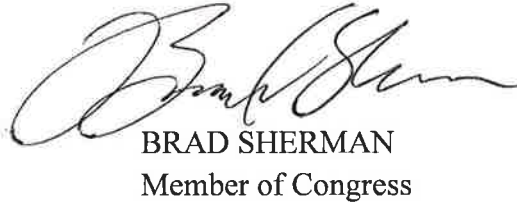

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

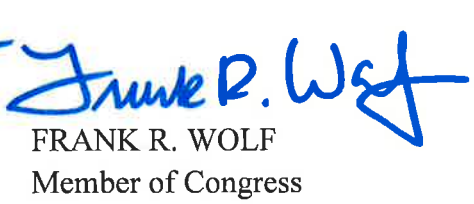

STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress


BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

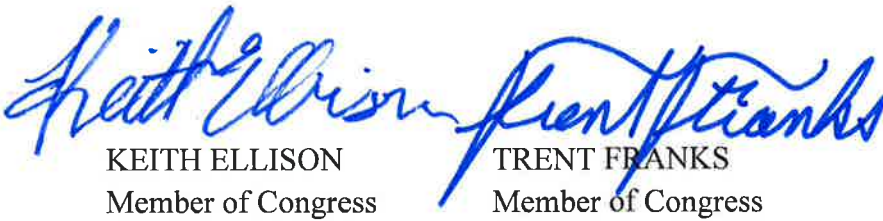

ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress


FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress

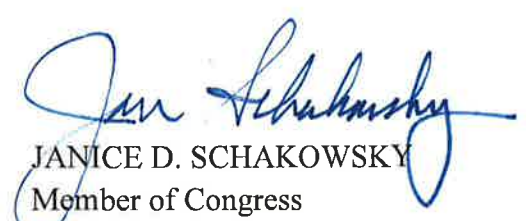

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

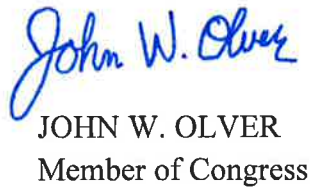

SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress


KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress


JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress


STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress


JOHN W. OLVER
Member of Congress